

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE *MS*

Applicant(s): Hiroaki Saeki, et al.

International Application No.: PCT/JP00/04233

International Filing Date: June 28, 2000

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Filed: December 28, 2001 (Herewith)

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For: ATTACHING AND REMOVING UNIT OF LID FOR WAFER CARRIER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. 1.56, Applicants are enclosing an Information Disclosure Citation Form (PTO-1449) which lists the references cited in the International Search Report accompanying the national stage documents being filed on this same date. The relevance of the references is set forth in the noted English language International Search Report. Also enclosed is U.S. Patent No. 5,730,573 which is the U.S. equivalent of Japanese Patent No. 7-235580.

It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered by the Examiner in the above-identified patent application and that the cited documents be made officially of record therein. It is further requested that a listing of the same appear on the face of any patent which may issue from this application.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By: *J-1 (32936) fm*

Michael A. Makuch, Reg. No. 32,263
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036
Telephone: (202) 659-2811
Fax: (202) 263-4329

December 28, 2001